GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3811
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2004
CONVERSION OF AGRICULTURE LAND FOR NON AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES
Prabhu Shri R.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government has taken any step to stop large-scale conversion of agriculture land for non-agricultural purposes ;

(b) If so, the details thereof ;

(c) The details of the reclamation of paddy fields for non-agricultural purposes, State-wise; and

(d) The steps taken by the Government to deal with the ecological problem as a result of such conversion ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Land is a State subject and, therefore steps to stop conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes are to be taken by State Governments. Government of India have issued National Land Use Policy Outlines (NLPO) to all the States and UTs. for follow up action. One of the action points of NLPO is for taking steps for checking diversion of highly productive land for non-agricultural purposes. In addition, Government of India provide technical and financial support to State Government in this regard. Some of the States are having legislative mandate while some other States are having executive instruction in this regard. As per available information, net sown area has increased from 140.27 million hectare in 1970-71 to 141.23 million hectare in 1999-2000. Thus net sown area has shown overall modest increase during this period.

(c)&(d): The area under paddy was 44.71 million hectare in 2000-01 and 44.9 million hectare in 2001-02. The State-wise area under paddy for major States of the country for two years (2000-01 & 2001-02) is annexed. The variation in paddy area in some States is mainly due to variation in rainfall as kharif paddy is dependent on rainfall. It shows an overall modest increase in the area under paddy cultivation during this period.